

VOIGT PARK NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK CLUB

To: Historic District Commission
From: Executive Committee of the Voigt Park Neighborhood Block Club
Re: General Service Department Park Department Voigt Park Improvement Plan Application
Date: December 1, 2023

The Voigt Park Neighborhood Block Club, as the major stakeholder in Voigt Park, supports the application of the General Services Division, Parks Planning Department, for additions to Voigt Park.

First, VPNBC supports the tree replanting proposal.

- The proposed planting locations are in historic locations of lost trees.
 - The 1928 survey map of Voigt Park shows the exact locations of the 150 trees that existed in the historic period. Over 100 of those trees have been lost.
 - The National Park Service Rehabilitation Guidelines for Historic Landscapes (see Voigt Park Historic Landscape Report, p. 16) advises that *where an important feature is missing, its **replacement is always recommended** in the Rehabilitation guidelines as **the first or preferred, course of action**... if adequate historical, pictorial, and physical documentation exists...* The 1928 map has that documentation of locations.
 - The proposal is to plant in historic locations.
- The tree species proposed are historically appropriate.
 - The NPS Rehabilitation Guidelines specifically refer to tree replanting. While replacing a missing landscape feature is preferable, substitutes are acceptable: *For example, ... **planting a tree of new stock that matches the historic form, and composition*** (see Voigt Park Historic Landscape Report, p. 24.)
 - The 1928 survey map also identifies the species of each of the 150 trees in the historic period. Trees predominantly were large, hardwood, shade trees.
 - The proposed species are large hardwood trees with size and shape consistent with the historic trees.
 - In the center of the historic park were four blue spruce planted on the four corners of a square. Two survive. The proposal is to replant the two missing blue spruce on the two corners of the square where they are missing.

Second, VPNBC supports the proposal to install two benches, with two conditions.

- The two benches would be along the central axis of Voigt Park under light fixtures for security and as far as possible from the surrounding houses, as proposed.
- The benches will be a standard City park bench design.